

For Immediate Release  
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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires announced today that the Union City School District will receive a grant in the amount of \$1,461,260. This grant will be used to strengthen and expand the conversions of Emerson and Union Hill High Schools into six Small Learning Communities (SLC's). The conversion will better prepare Union City students for their future years in college.

"I am pleased that Union City high school students will have the guidance and resources that can assist them in getting into the colleges of their choice," said Congressman Sires. "Personalized attention coupled with a strong curriculum will give these students an academic foundation that will carry them through college and beyond."

This grant was awarded under the Smaller Learning Communities Program of the United States Department of Education. The Smaller Learning Communities Program is designed to encourage large high schools to develop and implement smaller learning environments. Smaller learning environments positively affect grades, test scores, attendance and graduation rates. The Union City School District will be able to provide Union Hill and Emerson High Schools students with a new rigorous preparatory curriculum, which is aligned with State standards. Schools will also be able to expand participation in Advanced Placement and dual credit courses for juniors and seniors, as well as provide personalized attention, including college counseling and guidance.

"I am thrilled that thousands of our high school students will benefit from this wonderful opportunity that will put them on a level playing field with all other students in the State," said Union City Mayor Brian P. Stack. "I am already proud of the work they do and the effort they invest into creating a bright future for themselves and our community. I look forward to implementing this program with Union City School District officials, who will now have the resources that will allow them to give our students the attention and send-off they deserve."

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